



# **STOA NEWSLETTER**

*European Parliament - Directorate-General for Research - Directorate B*  
*April 1998*

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## ***Drug Use and Aquacapture Workshops coming***

The Drug Use Workshop will be held in Brussels on Thursday 23 and Friday 24 April  
The Aquacapture Workshop will be held in Brussels on Monday 27 and Tuesday 28 April

## ***STOA invited to Lisbon Conference***

STOA has been invited to make a presentation at the conference on 'The City of Tomorrow - The Energy Dimension' organised by DGXVII of the European Commission in Lisbon on 29-30 May

## ***EPTA events planned***

The annual Directors' Meeting of the European Parliamentary Technology Assessment network (EPTA) in Brussels on 30 April 1998 will prepare the Annual Conference and Council meeting to be held in Brussels under STOA's chairmanship on 1-2 October

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## NEWS

- Two more STOA Workshops are planned to take place, one on 'Drug use' on 23-24 April in Room LEO 5-E-2 in Brussels and one on 'Free fish farms at sea' on 27-28 April at the same location. Further details on pages 4-6.
- The Workshop on 'Learning to live in the information society as an older person' has taken place, as previously announced, on 23-24 March in Brussels, under the chairmanship of Mrs HEINISCH, Vice-Chairman of the STOA Panel. Further details on pages 3-4.
- The EPTA Directors' meeting is planned to take place on Thursday afternoon, 30 April in Brussels. It will prepare the Annual Conference and Council meeting to be held in Brussels under STOA's chairmanship on 1-2 October.
- DGXVII of the European Commission is organising a Conference on 'The City of Tomorrow - The Energy dimension'. STOA has been invited to present its recent work in this area, which includes the current project on 'Building regulations as a means of requiring energy saving and use of renewable energies', as well as earlier projects such as 'The technological city'.
- Visitors to the EP's new Leopold building in Brussels can now see what STOA is about and some of its recent studies in two brand-new glass show cases behind the DGIV Information Desk of the Parliamentary Documentation Centre on the third floor.

## WORKING DOCUMENTS, STUDIES, PAPERS, BRIEFS

Work in Progress - The following Working documents are being presented to the STOA Panel in April:

### Workplan 1997

- Transparency and openness in scientific advisory committees: The American experience**, by Dr Josephine Anne STEIN, PREST, UK  
Scoping Meeting Report, Working Document for the STOA Panel, Workplan 1997 - 97/C05-C015/1, EN, March 1998, PE 167.327/Scop.Meet.Rep.
- General influence of speed limiters on traffic flow, road safety, users and other aspects**, by Mrs Leire BARRIUSO, ASTECO Expertos en Temas Europeos, Bilbao, Spain  
Options Brief, Working document for the STOA Panel, Workplan 1997 - 97/C10/1, EN/DE/FR, April 1998, PE 167.147/Opt.Brf.

- **Learning to live in the information society as an older person**, by Dr Helga TREIBER and Ms Sharon BECKWITH, Teleport Sachsen-Anhalt, Brussels, Belgium  
Workshop Paper, Working Document for the STOA Panel, Workplan 1997 - 97/C12/2, EN, March 1998, PE 167.127/wop + Draft Options Brief, DE/EN
- **Synergy between the ecology of the sea and the economy of the land**, by Dr W. Eberhard FALCK  
Draft Final Study, Working Document for the STOA Panel, Workplan 1997 - 97/C17/1, EN, April 1998, PE 167.228/Draft.Fin.St.

#### **Workplan 1996**

- **Strategic options for the evaluation of R&D programmes of the EU**, by Mr Ken GUY and Mr Erik ARNOLD, Technopolis Ltd, UK  
Scoping Meeting Report, Working Document for the STOA Panel, Workplan 1996 - A.LP.1(follow-up), EN, April 1998, PE 167.406/Scop.Meet.Rep.

#### **Workplan 1995**

- **Towards a European environmental coast guard**, by Mr Graham J. CLARKE, IMC Associates, Lymington, UK  
Workshop Study, Workplan 1995, April 1998

## **PROJECT STEERING GROUPS**

**The following Project Steering Groups (PSG) have held meetings in the past month:**

#### **Workplan 1998**

- **98/C04/1 - State of play of the interstate customs computer network**

**Date/place:** 24 March 1998, Brussels

**Participants included:** Mr EKHART, Assistant to Mrs Peijs; Mr HOLDSWORTH, Head of the STOA Unit; Mr SOSA, STOA Projects Administrator; Mr ORTEGA, STOA Scholar.

**Main outcomes:** Agreement on project scope and timing on the basis of a Project Brief.

**For more information please contact:** Dick HOLDSWORTH.

**98/C08/01 - Technology-induced a-typical work-forms**

**Date/place:** 25 March 1998, Brussels

**Participants included:** Mr WOLF, MEP; Mr GONZATO, EP/DGII/Secretariat of the Committee on Social Affairs and Employment; Mr HOLDSWORTH, Head of the STOA Unit; Mr SOSA, STOA Projects Administrator; Mrs DUBROCARD, STOA Scholar.

**Main outcomes:** Agreement on project scope and timing on the basis of a Project Brief.

**For more information please contact:** Dick HOLDSWORTH.

**98/C13/02 - New options for renewable energy sources, including photovoltaics, in the developing world**

**Date/place:** 26 March 1998, Brussels

**Participants included:** Mr SPECIALE, MEP; Mr SOSA, STOA Projects Administrator; Mr COTTIS, STOA Scholar.

**Main outcomes:** Agreement on project scope and timing on the basis of a Project Brief.

**For more information please contact:** Dick HOLDSWORTH.

**Workplan 1997**

**97/C06/1 - Electronic commerce and secure telecommunications**

**Date/place:** 1 April 1998, Strasbourg

**Participants included:** Mrs MANN, MEP; Mr MALERBA, MEP; Mr HOLDSWORTH, Head of the STOA Unit; Mr SOSA, STOA Projects Administrator.

**Main outcomes:** Comments were given on the Interim Study delivered by Teleport Sachsen-Anhalt and guidelines agreed for the Draft Final Study.

**For more information please contact:** Dick HOLDSWORTH.

## WORKSHOPS

The following STOA Workshop took place:

**97/C12/2 - Learning to live in the information society as an older person**

**Date/place:** 23-24 March 1998, Brussels

**Main outcomes:**

This Workshop was organised by STOA after the Committee on Culture, Youth, Education and the Media had requested an investigation into the obstacles and opportunities for older people and for society in the changing conditions of the 'information society'. It was chaired by Mrs HEINISCH, MEP, Vice-Chairperson of STOA, and attended by the Chairman of the STOA Panel, Mr POMPIDOU, MEP.

The aim of the Workshop was to provide a forum in which experts and representatives concerned with older people and ICT could present and discuss their experience and knowledge in the area. The issues and concerns raised at the event will then feed into a scientific study which will present policy options.

It transpired that most older people are often not even aware of the possibilities offered by ICT and the particular benefits they can enjoy. However, it would seem they more than most are in need of extra teaching facilities in ICT as this particular training was not available to them in earlier life. By 2020, 27% of the European Union's population will be over 60, representing a larger proportion than the under 20s. Apart from its size, notable features of this growing age-group are that many of its (younger) members are in good health and receive good pensions. Nevertheless, it remains true that a large proportion of the severely disabled happen to be over 60 years of age, that as people get older their functional abilities tend to decrease and that affordability is still very much an issue.

Presentations of current research and development from the European Commission's TIDE unit (Telematics Initiative for the Disabled and Elderly, DG XIII C-5), companies and research institutes participating in the programme left little doubt that telematics can often provide the necessary key to successful ageing. However, many of the Workshop participants expressed impatience at the policy-makers' focus on older people with serious disabilities. Measures to improve older peoples' ICT skills for recreational and creative purposes was strongly encouraged as an end in itself and as a means to other policy aims. One speaker quoted some of the immediate benefits witnessed first hand, namely 'the fun, excitement, sense of accomplishment and increased confidence and well-being and the improvement in mental health and general well-being which these older students accomplished'.

The Workshop was organised in cooperation with Teleport Sachsen-Anhalt. A Workshop Study is expected to be available in 1-2 months.

**For more information please contact: Dick HOLDSWORTH.**

**The following STOA Workshops are in preparation:**

- 97/C12/3 - Drug use: scientific and technological contributions to the assessment of policy options on drug use and related treatments, from the level of individual treatment to the national and European policy level**

This Workshop is planned to take place on Thursday 23 April PM and Friday 24 April AM in Room LEO 5-E-2 in Brussels, under the Chairmanship of Dr Renate HEINISCH, Vice-Chairman of STOA.

The subject of this Workshop, which was requested from STOA by the European Parliament's Committee on Culture, Youth, Education and Media, is the worrying problem of drug use.

The European Council, European Parliament, Commission and the EU Member States have insisted on the need to combat drug addiction. The European Union in general and the

European Parliament in particular have been active in the prevention of drug dependence. Recently the European Parliament debated the Programme of Community Action on the Prevention of Drug Dependence within the Framework for Action in the Field of Public Health (1995 to 2000).

The Workshop aims at presenting and discussing the state of scientific knowledge concerning illegal drugs. The use of illegal drugs as well as its personal and social consequences have caused substantial problems in each of the EU Member States and several facts demonstrate that drug use and its related problems are still on the increase. In such a situation it becomes imperative to pose the question how one should respond to the challenge of effectively encountering drug use and drug-related problems. An effective response to drug use implies that the complexity and dimensions of the problem are recognised and that one has the relevant knowledge and understanding of the complex relationships involved in the issue.

Consequently, in the Workshop specific and focused scientific information is presented by high-level scientific experts on the following different problems related to the use of illegal drugs:

1. Prevalence, incidence and patterns of drug use
2. Risks of the use of drugs and dependency (health risks, social risks, psychological risks, psychiatric comorbidity, drug related death, etc.)
3. Aetiology of drugs (Why do people take drugs?)
4. Primary prevention of drug use
5. Treatment and treatment services for drug users
6. Health and social care services for drug users (other than treatment)
7. Drug policies and drug control strategies
8. Social, economic and other consequences of drug use(rs)
9. Supply of drugs (production, trafficking)
10. Detection of drugs and drug profiling

Each topic will be presented by a high level expert who will address the following questions: What is the current scientific knowledge on the problem? What is the research situation and what are the research needs? What policy options related to the problem are available? How can the proposed solutions be evaluated? What are the ethical dimensions of the problem? Is there added value in European-level action in this field, or is this a case where subsidiarity applies? What are the consequences of divergent policies and laws among the Member States of the European Union?

In addition two experts have been invited to conclude the Workshop with an analytic summary on the main findings and topics of the Workshop and on the consequences for European Union action.

The Workshop will be attended by Members of the European Parliament, officials of the European Commission and EP research assistants, Expert Speakers and invited observers from organisations working in the field of drug use.

For further information, please contact the Contractor:

Mr MAAS, at the European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research, Bergstraße 17, 1090 Vienna, Austria, tel: +43-1-319.45.05.22, fax: +43-1-319.45.05.19, e-mail: maas@euro.centre.org

- **97/C17/2 - Aquaculture: Deployment of an open-sea marine park with self-restocking by behaviourally conditioned fish with the objective of exploitation by traditional fishing methods**

This Workshop is planned to take place on Monday 27 April PM and Tuesday 28 April AM in Room LEO 5-E-2 in Brussels, under the Chairmanship of Mr d'ABOVILLE, MEP. This Workshop was requested from STOA by the European Parliament's Committee on Fisheries.

Free Fish Farms at Sea (FFFS) is a concept (sometimes called 'Aquacapture') which integrates many of the contemporary techniques used in fisheries and aquaculture and addresses the need for creative collaboration between these two sectors. The concept relies on hatchery-reared fish being acoustically conditioned in association with feeding. The fish are then released onto an enhanced habitat within an open sea area and are encouraged to remain within the local area by transmitting an acoustic signal at limited feeding times. Once mature, the fish are then recaptured by traditional fishing methods.

The Workshop will address issues of feasibility, positive and negative impacts etc. and will be guided by speakers with relevant expertise. The following topics with their relevance to FFFS are to be addressed at the Workshop:

- . FFFS Overview - French developments
- . Hatching, restocking of appropriate species
- . Japanese experience
- . Artificial reefs, aggregation and enhancement
- . Acoustic barriers and recall mechanisms
- . Economics macro/micro
- . Legal aspects global/local
- . Environmental aspects
- . Recapture of marine fish
- . Consumer/Market aspects

The Workshop will involve parliamentarians, EC officials, and invited specialists with experience in the field. The discussion generated at the Workshop will be used as the basis for a study which will appear two months after the Workshop.

For further information, please contact the Contractor:

Mr John BOSTOCK, Stirling Aquaculture, Institute of Aquaculture, University of Stirling, FK9 4LA, Scotland, tel: +44-1786-45.14.61, fax: +44-1786-45.14.62, e-mail: staq@stir.ac.uk, web site: <http://www.stir.ac.uk/aqua/staq/FFFS/>



*Important*

People external to the EU institutions wishing to attend one of these Workshops are kindly requested to contact the Contractor or the STOA secretariat in Brussels in advance.

## OTHER STOA INFORMATION

- STOA is sad to announce that the following left the Team at the end of March:

- Mrs Anne DUBROCARD, who worked on two projects of the 1998 Workplan 'The selection of indicators for the evaluation of programmes of regional assistance in the EU' and 'Technology-induced atypical work forms'. She has gone back to her job at GREQAM in Marseille.

- Mr José Luis ORTEGA GASPAR, who worked on the 1998 projects 'Biodiversity strategy' and 'State of play of the interstate customs computer network'. He has gone back to his lawyer's practice in Spain and will probably start a new job in Hamburg soon.

We wish them both all the best for the future.

- STOA is glad to announce that the following Scholars - as Ramón y Cajal Scholars or as non-remunerated Visiting Researchers - have joined the Team:

- Mr Jens KRAGE and Ms Sabrina SANTORO in Luxembourg;
  - Ms Nina SCHIRMER and Ms Maria CASTELLANO in Brussels.

- STOA is also glad to announce that:

- Ms Claudia DE LEO has started work as a stagiaire in the Division of Mr VAN DER PERRE and as such has undertaken summarising previous STOA studies for the DGIV list of publications.

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Please address your requests for any of the documents listed above to Mr Frans SCHAERLAEKEN by fax (for details see list at the end).

## STOA Workplan 1998: Summary of projects

<i>Committee project n°</i>	<i>Committee</i>	<i>Project title</i>
0201	Agriculture	Consequences of climate change for agricultural production
0401	EMAC	State of play of the interstate customs computer network
0501	CERT	Ethical issues in European research and technology
0502		Comparative study into coalmining technology and costs between the EU (including countries of C. and E. Europe) and major competitors in USA, Australia, S. Africa
0503		Building regulations as a means of requiring energy saving and use of renewable energies: current status and future potential at Member State and EU level
0504		A nuclear amplifier for energy for electricity production
0505		Bio-informatics: a technology assessment of recent developments in bio-informatics and related areas of research and development including high-throughput screening and combinatorial chemistry
0801	ASOC	Technology-induced atypical work-forms: Existing and proposed regulatory strategies concerning social agents (state, employers, trade unions) dealing with technologically-induced a-typical forms of work (tele-work, stand-by work, 24-hour-office-operation)
0901	Regional	The selection of indicators for the evaluation of programmes of regional assistance in the European Union: Classification of criteria for an empirical assessment principally based on research and development, technological innovation and technology transfer indicators
1001	Transport	Revitalising railways: Examples of failures and successes in the revitalisation of railways outside the European Union
1101	Environment	Sustainable use of pesticides
1102		Biodiversity strategy
1103		Orphan drugs
1201	Culture	Cultural diversity in the new media
1301	Development	SMEs, technology and development
1302		New options for renewable energy sources, including solar power, in the developing world
1401	Civil liberties	Appraisal of technologies of political control
1402		Use of modern technology for the purpose of setting up a European juridical network
1701	Fisheries	The problem of discards in fisheries
1801	Rules	Ways to facilitate the EP's work by the use of new technologies

## STOA PANEL

### Committee

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Mr Alain POMPIDOU (F, UPE)

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Mrs Renate HEINISCH (D, PPE)

Mr David BOWE (UK, PSE)

##### EP BUREAU REPRESENTATIVE (non-voting)

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Culture/Youth  
Environment/Public Health  
Vice-President of the EP

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Mr Lutz GOEPEL (D, PPE)

Mr Tommy WAIDELICH (SV, PSE)

Mr Fernand HERMAN (B, PPE)

Mr Rolf LINKOHR (D, PSE)

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Mrs Brigitte LANGENHAGEN (D, PPE)

Mr Roberto SPECIALE (I, PSE)

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Mr Andrea MANZELLA (I, PSE)

Mr Ulf HOLM (SV, V)

Mr Gordon ADAM (UK, PSE)

Mr Florus WIJSENBEEK (NL, ELDR)

Mrs Eryl McNALLY (UK, PSE)

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Development and Cooperation  
Civil Liberties and Internal Affairs  
Institutional Affairs  
Budgetary Control  
Fisheries  
Rules of Procedure  
Women's Rights  
Petitions

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Mr Franco MALERBA (I, UPE)

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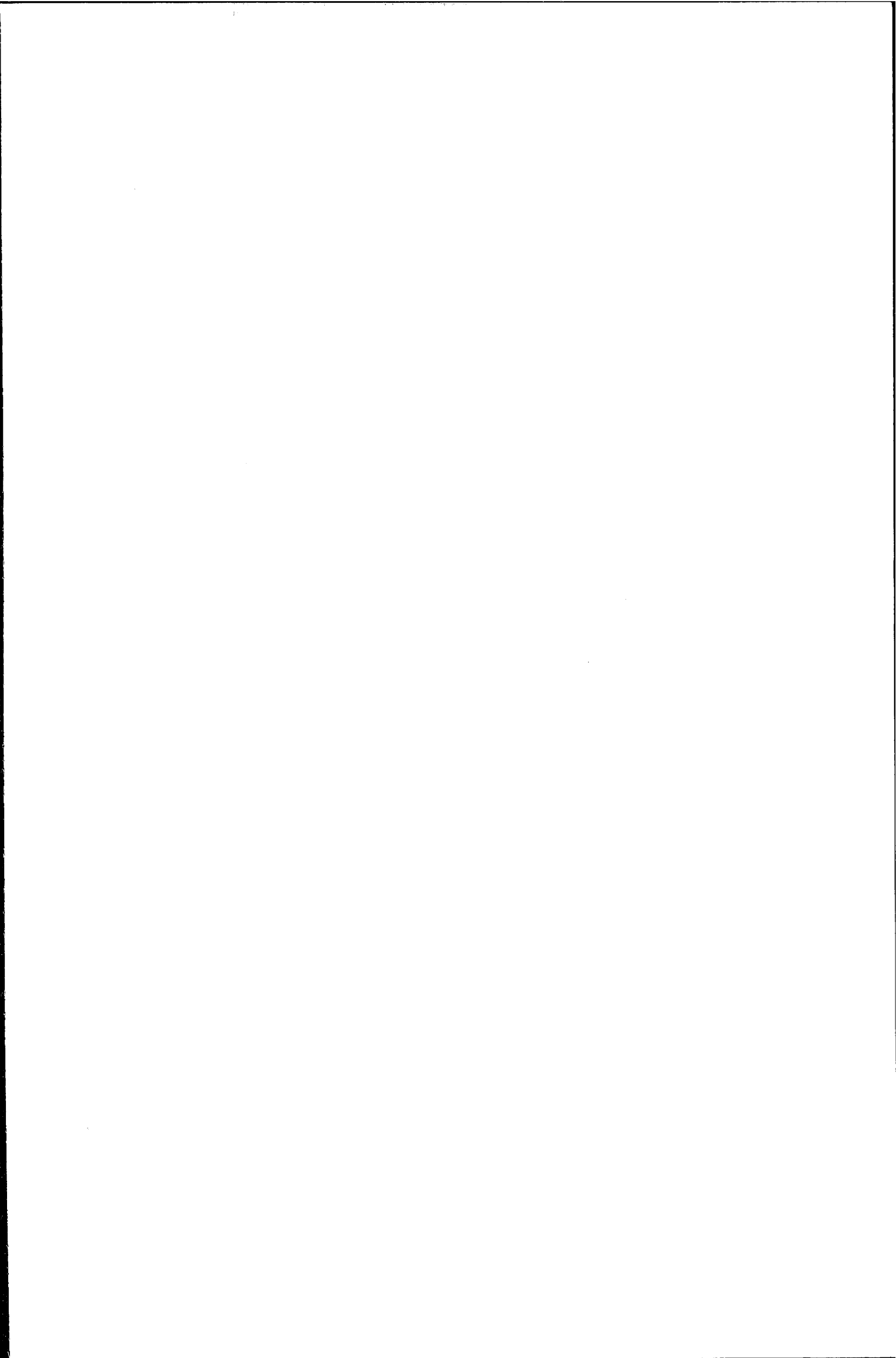
ONLY THE MEMBERS NAMED ABOVE HAVE THE **RIGHT TO VOTE** AT THE  
STOA PANEL MEETINGS.

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WEIWERS, Jackie	Secretary	4300-22623	SCH 4/82
SERCU, Karin	Secretary	28-43748	LEO 6D110
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## STOA PROGRAMME

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